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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

022824 7590 12/16/2005
DONALD R. SCHOONOVER
4211 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE
NIXA, MO 65714-8771

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/666,123 | 09/22/2003 | Karen W. Brendlinger | 1959430-2 | 8433 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: EXERCISE DEVICE FOR USE IN SWIMMING POOL

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | YES | \$700 | \$0 | \$700 | 03/16/2006 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

**Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
(571) 273-2885**

or **Fax**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

022824 7590 12/16/2005

**DONALD R. SCHOONOVER
4211 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE
NIXA, MO 65714-8771**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

| |
|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/666,123 | 09/22/2003 | Karen W. Brentlinger | 1959430-2 | 8433 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: EXERCISE DEVICE FOR USE IN SWIMMING POOL

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | YES | \$700 | \$0 | \$700 | 03/16/2006 |

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|---------------|----------|----------------|
| NGUYEN, TAM M | 3764 | 482-057000 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |
| 3 | _____ |

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/666,123 | 09/22/2003 | Karen W. Brentlinger | 1959430-2 | 8433 |
| 022824 | 7590 | 12/16/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| DONALD R. SCHOONOVER 4211 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE NIXA, MO 65714-8771 | | | NGUYEN, TAM M | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3764 | |
| DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005 | | | | |

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 389 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 389 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571) 272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/666,123

Applicant(s)

BRENTLINGER, KAREN W.

Examiner

Tam Nguyen

Art Unit

3764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview on December 5, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9-22-03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12-5-05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Stephen K. Cronin
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald R. Schoonover on December 5, 2005.

1. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 15, on line 24, delete "to" after "between"

In the claims:

In claim 2, delete lines 1 and 2 and insert

--2. The exercise device as described in claim 1 wherein the anchor unit is adapted to be fixedly secured to a swimming pool ladder.--

In claim 8, line 110, delete "the swimming pool" and insert --a swimming pool--

Claim 9 is cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In view of the applicant's amendments and after further consideration of the invention, the claims as presented avoid the prior art of record. The prior art does not disclose a swimming exercise device having a belt unit, a pair of Y-shaped restraining

straps releasably coupled to the belt unit and an anchor unit releasably coupled to the straps and adapted to be fixedly secured to a stationary element to allow for a user to essentially swim in place. In particular, the belt unit includes a hip-encircling element having two ends, each with a hook and loop fastener material that allows for the hip-encircling element to be adjustably secured around the user and a third hook and loop fastener material disposed on an outside portion of the hip-encircling element. Each of the restraining straps include one end having two legs with hook and loop fasteners disposed on a distal end of the legs for releasable attachment to the third hook and loop fastener material, an opposite end that includes a hook for releasable attachment to the anchor unit and an adjustment buckle disposed between the two ends wherein the legs of each strap are releasably attachable to multiple locations on the hip encircling element to provide the user with proper fit, alignment and comfort while distributing the restraint around the waist of the user to swim in place. The anchor unit includes an elongated anchor body having a first anchor ring on one end of the body, a second anchor ring on the other end of the anchor body and a third anchor ring disposed between the first and second anchor rings wherein the hook of one strap is connected to the first anchor ring, the hook of the other strap is connected to the second anchor ring and the third anchor ring is adapted to be fixedly secured to a stationary element such as a swimming pool ladder to allow the user to swim in place.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Carter '020, MacLennan '404 and Riera '815 each disclose a swimming exercise apparatus having two restraining straps but they do not disclose that the straps are Y-shaped or that the straps are adjustably securable along various positions on the a belt for improved distribution of the resistance force on the user.

Ashrow '522, Earner '923, Schmitt '096 and Croushore '982 are representative of the prior art that disclose swimming harnesses attached to a single restraint strap or cord. Horn' 514, Meier '905, Bray '893 and Kallasay '530 each disclose swimming exercise devices having belts that include flotation means.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4979. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Cronin can be reached on 571-2724536. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 5, 2005



Stephen K. Cronin
Primary Examiner

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------|
| Notice of References Cited | Application/Control No. 10/666,123 | | Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRENTLINGER, KAREN W. | |
| | Examiner Tam Nguyen | | Art Unit 3764 | Page 1 of 1 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * | | Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code | Date MM-YYYY | Name | Classification |
|---|---|--|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| * | A | US-3,988,020 | 10-1976 | Carter, James R. | 482/55 |
| * | B | US-5,236,404 | 08-1993 | MacLennan, Robert | 482/55 |
| * | C | US-6,176,815 | 01-2001 | Riera, Leonardo Alberto | 482/55 |
| * | D | US-5,083,522 | 01-1992 | Ashrow, David P. | 114/215 |
| * | E | US-4,962,923 | 10-1990 | Earnar, Margaret D. | 482/55 |
| * | F | US-4,247,096 | 01-1981 | Schmitt, Larry | 482/55 |
| * | G | US-5,816,982 | 10-1998 | Croushore, Bruce J. | 482/55 |
| * | H | US-5,601,514 | 02-1997 | Horn, Tom | 482/55 |
| * | I | US-4,109,905 | 08-1978 | Meier, Ernst J. | 482/55 |
| * | J | US-6,520,893 | 02-2003 | Bray, Craig A. | 482/140 |
| * | K | US-5,820,530 | 10-1998 | Kallassy, Charles | 482/111 |
| | L | US- | | | |
| | M | US- | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * | | Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code | Date MM-YYYY | Country | Name | Classification |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---------|------|----------------|
| | N | | | | | |
| | O | | | | | |
| | P | | | | | |
| | Q | | | | | |
| | R | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | |
| | T | | | | | |

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * | | Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages) |
|---|---|---|
| | U | |
| | V | |
| | W | |
| | X | |

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

NOTICE OF DRAFTSPERSON'S PATENT DRAWING REVIEW

The drawing(s) filed (insert date) 9-22-03 are:

- A. ☐ approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.
B. ☒ objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated below. Corrected drawings are required.

1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings: Black ink or Color (3 sets required).

☐ Color drawings are not acceptable until petition is granted. Fig(s) _____

☐ Pencil and non black ink not permitted. Fig(s) _____

2. PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84(b)

☐ One (1) full-tone set is required. Fig(s) _____

☐ Photographs may not be mounted. 37 CFR 1.84(e)

☐ Photographs must meet paper size requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(f). Fig(s) _____

☐ Poor quality (half-tone). Fig(s) _____

3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(e)

☐ Paper not flexible, strong, white, and durable.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations, folds, copy machine marks not accepted.

Fig(s) _____

4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes:

☐ 21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4) or

☐ 21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches)

☐ All drawing sheets not the same size.

Sheet(s) _____

☐ Drawings sheets not an acceptable size. Fig(s) _____

5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins:

☐ Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm

☐ Margins not acceptable. Fig(s) _____

Top (T) _____ Left (L) _____

Right (R) _____ Bottom (B) _____

6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)

REMINDER: Specification may require revision to correspond to drawing changes, e.g., if Fig. 1 is changed to Fig. 1A, Fig. 1B and Fig. 1C, etc., the specification, at the Brief Description of the Drawings, must likewise be changed.

☐ Views not labeled separately or properly.

Fig(s) _____

7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3)

☐ Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or Roman numbers. Fig(s) _____

8. ARRANGEMENT OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(i)

☐ Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion when page is either upright or turned so that the top becomes the right side, except for graphs. Fig(s) _____

9. SCALE. 37 CFR 1.84(k)

☐ Scale not large enough to show mechanism without crowding when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in reproduction.

Fig(s) _____

10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, & LETTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(l)

☒ Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, durable, and black (poor line quality). Fig(s) 1-12

11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m)

☐ Solid black areas pale. Fig(s) _____

☐ Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s) _____

12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, & REFERENCE CHARACTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(p)

☐ Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible. Fig(s) _____

☐ Figure legends are poor. Fig(s) _____

☐ Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the same direction as the view. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) Fig(s) _____

☐ English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2) Fig(s) _____

☐ Numbers, letters and reference characters must be at least 32 cm (1/8 inch) in height. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3). Fig(s) _____

13. LEAD LINES. 37 CFR 1.84(q)

☐ Lead lines missing. Fig(s) _____

14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(t)

☐ Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numbers beginning with number 1. Sheet(s) _____

15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u)

☐ Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals, beginning with number 1. Fig(s) _____

16. DESIGN DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.152

☐ Surface shading shown not appropriate.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Solid black surface shading is not permitted except when used to represent the color black as well as color contrast. Fig(s) _____

COMMENTS:

Reviewer S. Field
If you have questions, call (703) 305-8404.

Date 12-6-05
Attachment to Paper No. _____

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1959430 | SERIAL NO. |
| LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT | | APPLICANT KAREN BRENTLINER | |
| | | FILING DATE | GROUP |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|---------|-------------------|-------|----------|----------------|
| TN | AA | 3,426,722 | 02-1969 | Dragich | | | |
| | AB | 3,988,020 | 10-1976 | Carter | | | |
| | AC | 4,289,487 | 09-1981 | Fattler | | | |
| | AD | 4,524,711 | 06-1985 | Ashrow | | | |
| | AE | 4,544,155 | 10-1985 | Wallenbrock et al | | | |
| | AF | 5,820,530 | 10-1998 | Kallassy | | | |
| | AG | 5,846,167 | 12-1998 | Liu et al | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |
| | AI | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |
| | AL | | | | | | |
| | AM | | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO | |
|--|----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| | AP | | | | | | | |
| | AQ | | | | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| | | | |
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| | AR | | |
| | AS | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER <i>Tamr Jagan</i> | DATE CONSIDERED 12/5/25 |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Interview Summary | Application No. 10/666,123 | Applicant(s) BRENTLINGER, KAREN W. | |
| | Examiner Tam Nguyen | Art Unit 3764 | |

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Tam Nguyen. (3)_____.

(2) Donald R. Schoonover. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: 05 December 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-9.

Identification of prior art discussed: Carter '020.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Claim 2 is amended to clarify the subject matter and Claim 9 is cancelled. Grammatical errors in the specification and claim 8 are corrected as shown in the attached Examiner's Amendment.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right-hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

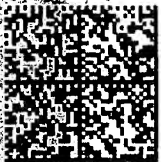
- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

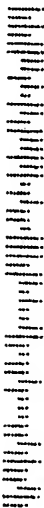
Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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